



HIGHLIGHTS:

U.S. Cattle on Feed
Livestock Slaughter
U.S. Cold Storage

Agricultural Prices
Farm Labor
U.S. Egg Production

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on November 1, 2004. The inventory was 3 percent above November 1, 2003 and 5 percent above November 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.70 million, 3 percent below 2003 but 13 percent above 2002. This is the second lowest placements for the month of October since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 2.64 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 912,000, 600-

699 pounds were 764,000, 700-799 pounds were 529,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 496,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.80 million, 3 percent below 2003 and 9 percent below 2002.

Other disappearance totaled 66,000 during October, 35 percent below 2003 and 21 percent below 2002.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance, 1,000 + Capacity Feedlots, United States, November 1, 2002- 2004

Item	Number			2004 as % of	
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003
	1,000 Head			Percent	
On Feed Oct 1 ¹	10,452	10,218	*10,497	100	103
Placed on Feed during Oct	2,396	2,781	2,701	113	97
Fed Cattle Marketed during Oct.	1,979	1,855	1,798	91	97
Other Disappearance during Oct ²	84	101	66	79	65
On Feed Nov 1 ¹	10,785	11,043	11,334	105	103

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. ² Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. *Revised

million pounds in October 2004, 9.8 percent below October of the previous year. **Cattle slaughter** in Utah for October 2004 totaled 42,900 head, 11.7 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was 1,223 pounds, up 27 pounds from October 2003. **Hog slaughter** totaled 3,100 head, down 700 head from October 2003. The average live weight was 232 pounds, up 9 pounds from the previous year. **Sheep and lamb slaughter** during October 2004 totaled 2,400 head, down 800 from the previous year. Average live weight, at 121 pounds, was 7 pounds down from the previous year.

UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.92 billion pounds in October, down 6 percent from the 4.16 billion pounds produced in October 2003. **Beef production**, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, down 9 percent from October 2003. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,267 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 12.4 million pounds, 24 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 62,500 head, down 28 percent from October 2003. The average live weight was 22 pounds above last year, at 330 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.78 billion pounds, down 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.97 million head, 7 percent below October 2003. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 267 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production**, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 9 percent from October 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 241,400 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, unchanged from October a year ago. **January to October 2004 commercial red meat production** was 37.7 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter,

October 2003-2004 ¹

Item	Utah		United States	
	October		October	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Production (Million Pounds)				
Red Meat	36.9	33.3	4,158.3	3,921.2
Number Slaughtered (Thousand Head)				
Cattle	48.6	42.9	3,009.5	2,745.7
Calves	1	1	87.2	62.5
Hogs	3.8	3.1	9,649.2	8,970.2
Sheep & Lamb	3.2	2.4	265.1	241.4
Average Live Weight (Pounds)				
Cattle	1,196	1,223	1,231	1,267
Calves	1	1	308	330
Hogs	223	232	267	267
Sheep & Lamb	128	121	134	134

¹ Missing data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

October 31, 2004 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken, beef, orange juice, eggs and cheese. Butter stocks were down 21 percent from last month and down 38 percent from a year ago. **Total red meat supplies** in freezers were up 3 percent from last month and up 10 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 5 percent from last month, but down slightly from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 42 percent from last month, but down 24 percent from last year. **Total frozen poultry supplies** on October 31, 2004 were 1 percent below the previous month, but 9 percent above a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 3 percent from the previous month and up 33 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 7 percent from last month and down 16 percent from October 31, 2003.

Stocks in Cold Storage, United States

Commodity	Oct 31, 2003	Sep 30, 2004	Oct 31, 2004
1,000 Pounds			
Total Frozen			
Eggs	16,854	18,720	17,970
Chicken	600,664	777,874	800,245
Turkey	582,683	527,388	490,375
Total Poultry	1,186,037	1,306,180	1,291,446
Cherries, Tart			
RTP	83,314	99,862	92,978
Juice	1,732	2,696	1,837
Cherries, Sweet . .	8,241	9,816	9,463
Potatoes	1,247,982	1,178,746	1,276,881
Beef	375,171	457,244	459,023
Pork	446,843	422,116	445,212
Lamb & Mutton	4,485	4,179	4,166
Total Meat	836,916	894,397	917,817
Total in Storage			
Apples, Fresh . . .	5,507,595	3,005,907	5,493,493
Butter	170,154	133,008	104,673
Cheese, Natural . .			
American	491,098	553,884	526,157
Swiss	22,044	26,992	25,195
Other Natural . .	209,264	209,841	201,177

U.S. Cold Storage Highlights

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Utah: Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-November 2004, compared with October 2004, were up for barley, alfalfa hay, and other hay, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. The lamb price for October 2004 was \$98.00 per cwt, up \$1.00 from November 2003. The October 2004 sheep price, at \$35.00 was \$1.00 above November 2003.

Barley, at \$2.08 per bushel, was up 12 cents from the previous month's price but 20 cents below last year. Baled alfalfa hay was \$92.00 per ton, up \$6.00 from last month and \$22.00 above last year. Other hay, at \$88.00 per ton, was \$8.00 higher than last month and \$28.00 above November 2003.

United States: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, is 1 point above October. The Crop Index remained unchanged from October while the Livestock Index increased 1 point (0.9 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, eggs, hogs, strawberries, and grapes. Lower prices were received for lettuce, oranges, soybeans, corn, and cattle. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, and cotton offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, and potatoes. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.7 percent) from November 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 3 points (2.6 percent) from last month to 120. The index is unchanged from November 2003.

Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Utah			United States		
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
		Nov 2003	Oct 2004	Nov 2004 ¹	Nov 2003	Oct 2004	Nov 2004 ¹
Livestock							
Lambs	Dol/Cwt	97.00	98.00	(²)	99.70	98.20	(²)
Sheep	Dol/Cwt	34.00	35.00	(²)	40.50	40.70	(²)
Crops							
Barley	Dol/Bu	2.28	1.96	2.08	2.83	2.29	2.42
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	70.00	86.00	92.00	86.80	97.80	94.00
Other Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	60.00	80.00	88.00	67.50	68.60	67.80

¹ Prices refer to sales occurring about the 15th of the month.

² November data will be published next month.

Farm Labor

MOUNTAIN REGION II: (includes Utah, Nevada, and Colorado): During the week of October 10-16, 2004 there were 19,000 workers hired by farm operators in the region. All hired workers (excluding Agricultural Service Workers) were paid an average wage of \$9.40 per hour, down 7 cents from July 2004 and 10 cents higher than the national average. Field workers received \$8.32 per hour on average, down 31 cents from July 2004. Livestock workers received \$8.95 per hour, down 44 cents from July 2004.

UNITED STATES: There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2004, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 851,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 322,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.30 per hour during the October 2004 reference week, up 25 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.60 per hour, up 18 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.91 per hour compared with \$8.64 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.67 per hour, was up 20 cents from last year.

Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region and United States, October 10-16, 2004 ¹

U.S. and Region	Hired							
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of Hours Worked	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less		Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	Hours per Week	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour
Mountain I ²	29	19	10	42.3	8.25	8.62	8.40	8.84
Mountain II ³	19	14	5	41.6	8.32	8.95	8.56	9.40
Mountain III ⁴	23	19	4	44.0	7.03	8.04	7.36	7.75
US	851	605	246	40.5	8.60	8.91	8.67	9.30

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers. ² Mountain I - Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. ³ Mountain II - Colorado, Nevada and Utah. ⁴ Mountain III - Arizona and New Mexico.

US October Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.64 billion during October 2004, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.56 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 62 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2004 averaged 344 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,221 eggs, up slightly from October 2003.

October 2004 contained 21 weekdays, 5 Saturdays and 1 holiday compared to October 2003 which contained 23 weekdays, 4 Saturdays and 1 holiday.

Layers & Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type,

United States, October - November 2003 - 04

Item	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
Layers during Oct (Thousand)			
All Layers	335,333	344,194	103
Table Egg Type	278,138	285,958	103
Hatching Egg Type	57,195	58,236	102
Eggs per 100 Layers during Oct (Number)			
All Layers	2,218	2,221	100
Table Egg Type	2,294	2,294	100
Hatching Egg Type	1,850	1,861	101
Eggs produced during Oct (Million)			
All Layers	7,439	7,643	103
Table Egg Type	6,381	6,559	103
Hatching Egg Type	1,058	1,084	102
Item	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
Layers on Nov 1 (Thousand)			
All Layers	336,528	344,492	102
Table Egg Type	279,338	286,507	103
Hatching Egg Type	57,190	57,985	101
Eggs per 100 Layers on Nov 1 (Number)			
All Layers	71.9	71.8	100